



MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

April 2014 – Our next meeting will be held April 17, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Mall community room, lower level. The program will be presented by Fred Borgmann from Iola who will speak about Wisconsin military and civil badges, about which he wrote a book. Don't miss this interesting program.

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road).

President: Justin Perrault
Secretary: Joe Paonessa
Sgt. at Arms: Stu Caddell
Trustee '14-'16: Leon Saryan
Librarian: Joe Paonessa

Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Treasurer: Lee Hartz
Trustee '12-'14: Tom Dallmann
Trustee '13-'15: Gary Bieringer
Newsletter: Leon Saryan

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April Coin of the Month

Featured this month is an NGC encapsulated 2004-D Wisconsin quarter. Although not graded, the coin is almost flawless. However, it does NOT have any extra leaves. Bids open at \$5 for this exceptional item.



April 2014 MNS President's Message

It is without a doubt my pleasure to report that the 34th Annual Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic organized by the MNS (and hosted in conjunction with the South Shore Coin Club show), went off as a great success. A very special thanks is due to all those who volunteered to help or give a presentation at the Clinic, especially Leon for keeping the tradition alive. A total of 54 Scouts registered and successfully completed the requirements to obtain their merit badge. We can only hope that a general interest in numismatics has been kindled, however small, so that one or several youth will take an interest in the hobby. Even if it is not this year or the year after, hopefully their experience at the Clinic will stay with them so that they may be reminded of coin collecting in the future.

The next regular meeting of our Club is April 17th. You may have noticed in looking at the calendar that we will be treated to a special presentation by Fred Borgmann, who will be giving an illustrated talk on "Wisconsin Military Medals". This is based upon a book he recently authored on that topic, and he should have several copies of this book for sale at the meeting. If you ask nicely, I am sure he would even be happy to sign your copy. Fred is a wealth of knowledge and this presentation should be a very interesting one, so hopefully you will be able to fit this next meeting into your schedule.

The May 15th meeting will be host to our semi-annual spring auction, so start thinking about what you might like to consign. Please send an e-mail of your items to Dave at davehuns@yahoo.com no later than May 1st; that way the items can be added to the list that will be published in the newsletter.

Also looking at the calendar, you will see that a "summer outing" has been added to the line-up. Instead of having a regular July meeting, we will be meeting at the Villa Terrace on that same night, only one hour earlier. (The Club will cover admission expenses for members.) For those that enjoy and appreciate Milwaukee history, this museum really is a treasure. Built in 1924 for the Lloyd R. Smith family, of A.O. Smith Corporation fame, the mansion was originally referred to as Sopra Mare. In the early 1960's, the mansion was donated by the Smith family to Milwaukee County to serve as a decorative arts museum. They presently have an amazing collection of such art, some of it local, and the garden grounds should hopefully be in nice shape come July.

All the best and here's looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.785.7663

MN\$ 2014

Schedule

Monthly meetings in 2014 are held at 7 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Dec 19:	Holiday Party
Jan 16:	New officer induction
Feb 20:	Brian O'Keefe: Securing Your Collection
Mar 20:	Merit Badge Program
Apr 17:	Fred Borgmann: Wisconsin Military Medals Presentation
May 15:	Spring Auction (Dave H)
Jun 19:	Non-numismatic hobbies
Jul 17:	Summer Outing at Villa Terrace (Meet at 6 PM) 2220 N. Terrace Ave. Milwaukee, WI
Aug 21:	Open
Sep 18:	Open
Oct 16:	Raffle drawing
Nov 20:	Auction (Dave H)
Dec 18:	Holiday Party

Annual Dues

Dues for 2014 are \$10. They may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$50. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.785.7663 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

2014 Numismatic Events

April 3-5, 2014	SSCC Coin Show & BS CC Merit Badge Clinic (April 5 th) Clarion Hotel 5311 S. Howell Ave.
April 10-13	CICF Chicago Show Crowne Plaza, O'Hare
April 24-26	CSNS Chicago Show Schaumburg Conv. Ctr.
June 21-26	ANA Summer Seminar Session I
June 28-July 3	ANA Summer Seminar Session II
August 5-9	ANA World's Fair of Money (Rosemont, IL) Donald E. Stephens Conv. Ctr.
Oct. 5, 2014	MNS Coin Show Serb Hall, Milwaukee

Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	Dave Herrewig
Feb:	Don Kaminski
Mar:	Tom Dallmann
Apr:	Dave Hunsicker
May:	Stu Caddell
Jun:	Open
Jul:	N/A
Aug:	Open
Sep:	Open
Oct:	Open
Nov:	Leon Adraktas
Dec:	Holiday Pizza Gang

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

March 20, 2014 Minutes

The 945th meeting of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Justin Perrault. 25 members and no guests were present. Justin led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. In the absence of the secretary and VP, immediate past president Leon Saryan was asked to take minutes.

Door prizes were won by Darrell Luedtke, Don Kaminski, Leon Adraktas, Justin Perrault, Henry Jaworski, Leon Saryan, Pam Talmadge, Tom Casper, Josh Whitehall, and Peter Caddell.

The coin of the month, a PCGS MS-65 1964-D silver dime, was auctioned. Steve Jacobson was the winner with a bid of \$10. Minutes of the Feb. 20 meeting were approved as printed with no additions or changes.

Treasurer's Report: For February, receipts were \$63, expenses were \$219.62, for a net loss of \$156.62. The report was filed for review.

Correspondence: We received a few publications, plus an invitation for breakfast for two members at the CSNS convention in Schaumburg, IL on April 25.

Activities Report: Justin gave the VP report. Refreshments for June, August, September, and October are open. Thanks to Tom Dallmann and Gary Bieringer who brought refreshments for tonight's meeting. At our upcoming April 17 meeting, Fred Borgmann from Iola will present a not-to-be-missed illustrated talk about Wisconsin badges. We will apply to Central States to support his expenses. The projector and a laptop will be needed. A summer outing to the Charles Allis Art Museum is planned in lieu of a meeting on July 17.

Upcoming Shows: A partial list was presented: Wausau, March 30; SSCC (Clarion Airport), April 3-5; Madison, April 6; Appleton, April 13; CICF (Rosemont), April 10-13; CSNS (Schaumburg), April 23-26.

Membership and Audit: No reports.

Newsletter: Articles have been coming in. Thanks are due to Dave Hunsicker for putting postage on the envelopes, and to Josh Whitehall for maintaining the address label database and printing the labels.

Library Donations: Leon S is working on this project with the SSCC and IBNS clubs for 2014.

Merit Badge Clinic: The 34th annual clinic will be held Saturday morning April 5. Leon S and Stu will drive the program; Leon, Dave H, Roger L, and Lee H will do the presentations. Leon will meet with the hotel staff to assure that the room is set up and ready, with drinking water provided for guests. Gifts for the boys are being gathered. A sign-up sheet for volunteer workers was distributed. Volunteers should arrive at 7 AM; duties are to check in the scouts and grade their quizzes. Leon has made sufficient copies of all paper materials. Speakers not present at tonight's meeting will be reminded. Donuts and lunch will be provided to all volunteers.

Upcoming Event Transportation: The ANA World's Fair of Money show is scheduled to be held at the Rosemont Convention Center in early August. MNS will sponsor a bus as was done in 2013. The bus will be reserved shortly. The NOW show will be held in Iola in the spring of 2015 and it is planned to sponsor a bus for that show as well.

Program: Leon S and Stu reviewed and showed the slides for the MNS Merit Badge Clinic PowerPoint presentation. The program is an introduction to US numismatics geared toward boys from 11-15 years of age.

Exhibits: Steve Jacobson brought in some Red Books with printing errors, Darrell Luedtke gave a status update on the Cultural Properties Act affecting ancient coins, Leon S showed two 1975 MNS/NOW medals that he found at the Racine show, and Tom Casper brought in some \$100 bills with rubber-stamped chopmarks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Saryan (acting secretary)

News Flash

Mint Demands Return of 1974-D Aluminum Cent Pattern

As the cost of copper rose in the early 1970's, the US mint experimented with alternate metals and alloys with which to strike the lowly Lincoln cent. One option was to strike the cent in aluminum (96%, alloyed with 4% other elements), a significantly less expensive composition. Indeed, records indicate that over 1.5 million 1974 dated aluminum cents were struck (in 1973), but after the plan was rejected by Congress almost all were destroyed. Apparently, some samples (which can be considered patterns) were given out to members of the US Congress, but not all were returned. It is estimated that between 12 and 21 pieces of the original mintage remain unaccounted for.

At least one of these coins was found on the floor of a Capitol police officer, and this one made news in 2005. It was submitted to for professional grading to IGC (not considered a top tier grading firm) and was certified AU-58; a few months later it was sent to PCGS which graded it as MS-62!! As far as is known, the mint has not attempted to retrieve this coin.

Apparently, a few 1974 aluminum cents were also struck in Denver with a D mint mark. The mint claims they have no record of this, but earlier this year an example was revealed to exist, and has been authenticated and certified by a numismatic grading service. The newly-revealed coin was allegedly struck by a former Denver mint employee as a "die setter", and is owned by the son of former Denver mint superintendent Harry E. Lawrence. Lawrence had kept the coin with some others in a plastic sandwich bag. Although this would seem to be another pattern, the mint is demanding return of the 1974-D coin. It was slated to be auctioned at the upcoming CSNS Heritage sale in Schaumburg later this month, but this is now in doubt.

The controversy will likely be decided in court. -- LAS

BRASHER DOUBLOON REALIZES \$4,582,500 AT HERITAGE AUCTION

Submitted by Tom Casper

The Brasher doubloon was the earliest gold coin struck in our country. Prior to the establishment of the US mint circa 1793, there was a significant shortage of coins for commerce, and several states were producing their own coinage. The doubloon was struck privately in 1787 and thereafter, thus before the US Mint. All The finest known certified example (graded MS63) sold early this year at the FUN show in Florida for \$4,852,500, making it one of the most valuable coins to ever be sold at auction.



To understand the importance of the Brasher doubloon it is necessary to know something about its creator, a man named Ephraim Brasher. Brasher was a man of many accomplishments and fairly well known in his time, but history had largely forgotten him until scholars began researching his life in conjunction with his numismatic legacy. Much has been learned about Brasher and his coins in recent years, but some questions remain unanswered.

Ephraim Brasher, the originator of the Brasher doubloons, was an American patriot and silversmith, like his more famous contemporary, Paul Revere. He was born April 18, 1744 in New York to an old Dutch family. Different branches of the family spelled their name variously as Breser, Bresert, Brasier, Brazier, and even Bradejor. His lineal descendants reveal that the preferred pronunciation is Bray-zher, but numismatists and the public have always pronounced it phonetically (hopefully causing no unintended offense to the illustrious family). Brasher lived all his life in New York City.

One of Brasher's chief claims to fame was that he lived just a few feet from President George Washington in New York City after the Revolutionary war. Washington resided at 3 Cherry Street and Brasher lived next door at 1 Cherry Street. Not only were Washington and Brasher neighbors, but

Washington was also a customer of Brasher. He owned numerous silver pieces made by Brasher, including a number of silver skewers with a surviving receipt. It was certainly important for Washington to make a good impression at state dinners, which he did with the assistance of his Brasher silver.

In addition to about eight known NOVA EBORACA (New York) gold doubloons, a number of foreign gold and silver coins exist today that bear Brasher's EB in an oval counterstamp. It is thought that Brasher evaluated these coins and stamped them to signify that they were of full weight and fineness. The Bank of New York employed gold and silversmiths, like Brasher, to test coins that came into the bank. These men were known as "Regulators" and they would weigh each coin as it was deposited and add a plug of gold to any that were found to be outside the allowable tolerances, stamping the coin with their stamp to indicate that the coin was of proper weight and consistency. These coins are highly regarded and sought-after by collectors today. Brasher's reputation as an assayer was apparently well-established by the late 1780s, and his counterstamp was widely accepted as a guaranty of value.

Brasher's skill as a silversmith, engraver, assayer, and metal worker enabled him to branch out into the field of private coinage for which he will always be remembered. His first endeavor seems to have been the Lima Style doubloon (Breen 984), which resembled the widely circulated 1742-dated Spanish coins of the 8 Escudos denomination. The 8 Escudos coins were called Doblons in the Spanish colonies and the term was adopted and Anglicized to doubloon in the United States. They were worth about \$16, a large sum for the average man in the late 1700s.

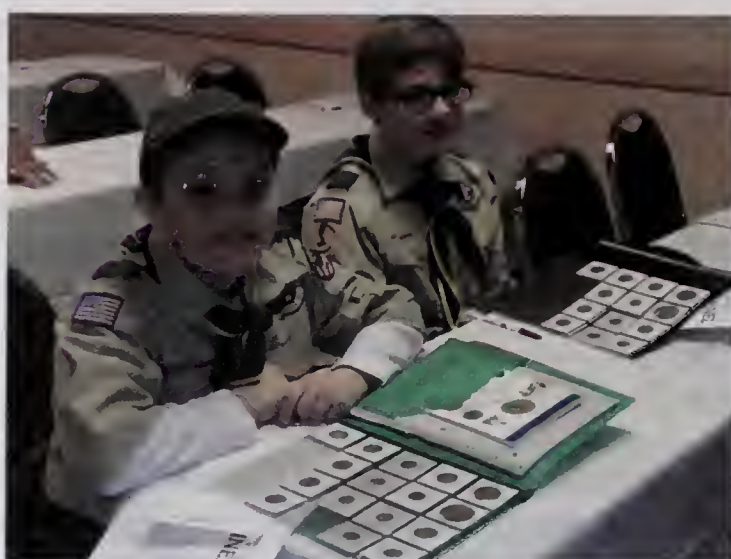
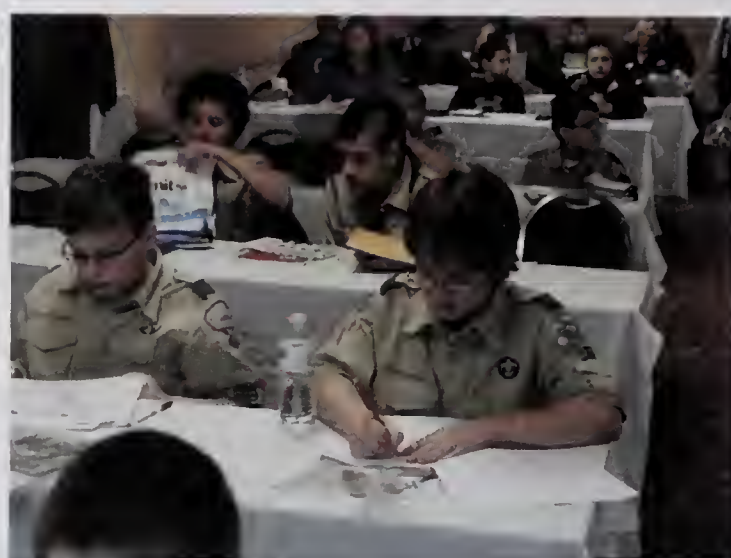
Brasher created his numismatic masterpiece, the New York doubloon, sometime in 1787. Although the specifications are virtually identical to the Lima doubloons and are extremely close to those of the earlier Spanish coins that served as their prototype, the design was altogether new. Some have speculated that dies were created for a proposed issue of New York copper coinage; however, no copper strikings are known.

Obverse: The obverse was apparently adopted from the state coat of arms of New York. The sun is rising over the peak of a mountain with a body of water in the foreground. Brasher's name is spelled out below the waves, in small letters. This central device is enclosed within a circle of beads. The legend, around, NOVA EBORACA COLUMBIA EXCELSIOR, has each word separated by a rosette. The legend translates to New York, America, Ever Higher. Excelsior remains the state motto to this day.

Reverse: An eagle with wings displayed, and a shield covering its breast, has a bundle of arrows in its sinister claw (to the observer's right) and an olive branch in its dexter claw. Thirteen stars surround the eagle's head. This central device is enclosed in a continuous wreath. Around, the legend: UNUM E PLURIBUS with the words separated by stars. This legend translates to One from Many. Below, the date 1787 is flanked by rosettes. Many of these devices are similar to those used on the Great Seal of the United States. Like many coins of this era, the denomination is not indicated anywhere on the coin.

Full-size Brasher doubloons weigh about 26.6 grams and are of 22 K (91.7%) gold purity. Two varieties of these are known: six examples with the EB stamp on the eagle's wing (Breen 981), and a unique example with EB stamped on the eagle's breast (Breen 982). A unique half doubloon (Breen 983) is also recorded.

Scenes from the April 5, 2014 34th annual Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic, held at the Clarion Airport Hotel Conference Center. The clinic is a project of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society.



Warm thanks are due to our volunteers who helped evaluate the collections, pass out and grade the quizzes, made presentations or otherwise assisted in making the program a success: Justin Perrault, Lee Hartz, Stu Caddell, Peter Caddell, Leon Saryan, Betty Petrovick, Henry Jaworsky, Josh Whitehall, Gary Bieringer, Dave Herrewig, Roger Lick, Dave Hunsicker, and Pam Talmadge. Thanks are also to several organizations and local coin dealers that donated gifts that were passed out to the boys: MNS, the US Mint, Greater Milwaukee Coin (Brookfield), Bob's Coins (West Allis), American Coins (Racine), Kurt Krueger Coins (Iola), and Shorewood Coin Shop (Shorewood). (Hope I have not left anyone out!) Without your support the clinic would not be possible!!.